

## **FINANCE COMMITTEE REPORT**

March 6, 2012

A Finance Committee meeting was held Tuesday, March 6, 2012 at 5:30 p.m. in the County Administration Building, Quorum Court Meeting Room, 215 East Central, Bentonville, Arkansas.

Committee Members Present: Allen, J. Harrison, Moore, Jones, Douglas, Winscott, Curry

Others Present: County Judge Bob Clinard, JP Herb Hawkins, Comptroller Richard McComas, Accounting Manager Sarah Daniels, Grants Administrator Kati Rose, Administrator of General Service Elizabeth Bowen, D.E.M. Director Robert McGowen

Tom Sissom – Benton County Daily Record

Chair JP Allen called the meeting to order.

### **Grants Administrator Report**

Grants Administrator Kati Rose reported that the grant from the Department of Homeland Security-LETPP to purchase open X-ray equipment for the bomb squad has been awarded in the amount of \$140,425.

Kati also reported that: 1) a grant application has been submitted to the Arkansas Administrative Office of the Courts Security and Emergency Preparedness. She reported that if this grant is awarded, it will be used to purchase additional courthouse security cameras and it requires no county match. She stated that the county's maintenance department will install the cameras; and (2) a grant application has been submitted to the Department of Justice – Office of Violence against Women. This \$50,000 grant requires no county match and is to enhance judicial decision-making in protection order cases that involve custody issues.

Kati stated that she is requesting approval to apply for two grants: (1) Northwest Arkansas Economic Development District, a general improvement funds grant in the amount of \$1,000 and is called Project Life Savers, a program that assists with the costs for dementia patients; and (2) the Arkansas Department of Human Services grant for \$18,223 with a 10% match coming from the Juvenile Probation budget to establish a Juvenile Victim/Offender Mediation Program. The deadline for application is March 13, 2012.

JP Allen stated he does not want to take any grants that might encumber the county to have to hire somebody and once the grant money is gone, then the county would have to absorb that personnel cost.

Comptroller Richard McComas stated a resolution is required when grants require matching funds.

JP J. Harrison made motion to allow Grants Administrator Kati Rose to apply for the Arkansas Department of Human Services grant, seconded by JP Curry.

JP Allen stated that he thinks it is a great idea to make sure that the juveniles fully understand what has taken place and how it has affected the victim. JP Douglas commented that this sounds like a reasonable thing to do, to get the victim and the perpetrator together, and see how it affects their lives, but why couldn't we do this without money, and why do we have to have a professional mediator.

JP Moore stated this is a worthwhile program that needs to be continued and that he would like to request that Juvenile Probation Director Petie Cobb attend the next Committee of Thirteen meeting to explain the program.

Motion passed by unanimous show of hands vote.

Lengthy discussion was held on the prospect of receiving grant money, the need for grant money, and the usefulness of the federal and state agencies administering the programs.

JP Douglas made motion to approve the application for the Northwest Arkansas Development District General Improvement Fund (GIF) grant for the Project Life Savers Program, seconded by JP Curry.

Motion passed by unanimous show of hands vote.

## **2. Road Department-Capital Expenditures**

Administrator of Public Service Scott Stober reported on the revised list for the Road Department's capital requests. He reported that the total with trade in vehicles would be \$814,000 which is \$3,000 less than previously requested. He stated that they cannot take care of the roads without the right equipment.

JP Winscott asked if there would be other equipment needed this year. Scott Stober stated that new dump trucks are needed but if they were to be purchased, the Road Department does not have the personnel to put in them. JP Jones asked if the Road Department was going to be efficient and able to do more roads. Scott Stober stated that previously the Road Department had 17 miles of roads in their budget, but that he planned on doing 39 miles. He stated that 12.7 miles is for asphalt and the rest is for chip and seal. He stated that chip and seal is a great road when it is applied correctly. JP Curry asked for an update for the roads that are to be done. Scott Stober reported that they are finishing up Pleasant Ridge road, and then they would move to the Logan Cave Road area. He reported that Short Road is also on the list.

Discussion was held on the cost difference between asphalt roads and chip and seal roads.

JP Winscott made motion to accept the Road Department's revised capital requests list as recommended, seconded by JP Allen.

Motion passed by unanimous show of hands vote.

Richard McComas stated that this amount is already budgeted in the Road Department budget.

### **3. Ordinance Requests**

#### **a) 2011 - Budget Amendments**

##### **▪ Unemployment Appropriation**

Richard McComas stated this appropriation ordinance request in the amount of \$165,903.24 is to pay for 2011 unemployment claims and that the funds come from various departments.

JP J. Harrison made motion to approve and forward the appropriation ordinance request to the March 13, 2012 Committee of Thirteen agenda, seconded by JP Curry.

Motion passed by unanimous show of hands vote.

#### **b) 2012 – Budget Amendments**

##### **• NACCHO Grant Application**

D.E.M. Director Robert McGowen stated this appropriation ordinance request is to appropriate the \$5,000 grant received from the National Association of County and City Health Officials, Grant Fund 241, for supplies and equipment for the start up of the Medical Reserve Corp for Benton County.

Discussion was held on the need of establishing the Medical Reserve Corp for Benton County and the supplies and equipment requested for the start up.

JP Moore made motion to approve and forward the appropriation ordinance request to the March 13, 2012 Committee of Thirteen agenda, seconded by JP J. Harrison.

Motion passed by unanimous show of hands vote.

##### **• SHSGP FY10 Grant Reorganization**

Accounting Manager Sarah Daniels stated that this appropriation ordinance request is for the State Homeland Security Grant FY10, budgeted in 2012. She stated that this is to transfer funds from Small Equipment to various accounts and is for the reorganization of where the funds are going. JP Jones asked what this grant will be used for. Robert McGowen responded that this is for an incident management software system (Previstar) and other search and rescue equipment to enhance the preparedness, mitigation, and the response capabilities within Benton County and surrounding areas for a terrorism incident. Richard McComas stated that this is already in the 2012 budget and allows the transfer of funds from Small Equipment to various accounts.

Richard McGowen reported that the county's Emergency Management Department plans to use some of the money to buy Urban Search and Rescue equipment, which the state has identified as

an area of deficiency, and that the equipment includes specialized gear used for shoring up buildings that may have been damaged or collapsed in a natural disaster or a terrorism incident.

Lengthy discussion was held on the proposed use of the State Homeland Security Grant FY10 (SHSGP) grant and the guidelines set by State Homeland Security and how the grant funds are to be spent.

JP Douglas asked how many collapsed building we had in Benton county last year. He stated that he is not convinced that the county needs the equipment and that they shouldn't spend the money simply because it is available. He questioned if this is a wise use of tax dollars because of the infrequency of use. Robert McGowen stated that Benton County is planning its purchases with a Northwest Regional Task force in mind and that the equipment could be used in a variety of ways, ranging from trench rescue, to the aftermath of a tornado, earthquake, or terrorist event.

Further discussion was held on the State Homeland Security Grant Program (SHSGP FY10) and the equipment to be purchased with the grant funds.

Robert McGowen stated that if the money is not spent by the deadline and if the county declines to spend the money allotted by the state, that funding for the county could be less in the future.

JP Winscott made motion to approve and forward the appropriation ordinance request to the March 13, 2012 Committee of Thirteen agenda, seconded by JP Jones

Motion passed by unanimous show of hands.

- **LETPP FY10 Grant Reorganization**

Richard McComas stated this request is to appropriate \$140,000 for the LETPP Grant FY09, Fund 294 that was received in 2012. Robert McGowen stated that the FBI had requested that Benton County apply for this Law Enforcement Terrorist Prevention Program Grant FY09 (LETPP). He stated that this money will be used to purchase two portable open air X-ray units for the Bomb Squad and will be used statewide. He stated that one will be stationed in Bentonville, and the other in Little Rock.

JP Moore made motion to approve and forward the appropriation ordinance request to the March 13, 2012 Committee of Thirteen agenda, seconded by JP J. Harrison

Motion passed by unanimous show of hands vote.

- **LETPP FY 09 Grant Appropriation**

Robert McGowen stated that this request is to appropriate \$40,423 for the LETPP Grant FY10, Fund 297. He reported that the Law Enforcement Terrorism Prevention Program request has to be developed with input from law enforcement agencies around the county and that the items requested were an X-ray Micro/Forensic extraction device, a bank radio charger, a bomb suit, and AWIN portable replacement batteries.

Discussion was held on the benefits and usage of the equipment that has been requested.

JP J. Harrison made motion to approve and forward the appropriation ordinance request to the March 13, 2012 Committee of Thirteen agenda, seconded by JP Jones.

Motion passed by unanimous show of hands vote.

### **5. Sales Tax Numbers**

Richard McComas reported that the sales tax numbers were the best numbers since the new Census. He reported that the county collected \$650,000 for December, and that beats all months last year. He reported that December's receipts were up 11% over the same month last year.

### **6. Jail Collections**

Richard McComas stated that jail collections are down and they did not expect to collect as much in March, as what was collected in February. He reported that the county has received \$168,000 for the year. He also reported that the state reimbursement usually lags two months behind the county's billing and that the amount received varies from month to month.

Discussion was held on future jail collections received from the state, and the number of state inmates housed in the Benton County Jail.

JP Allen stated that he wants more up-to-date information that shows how much the county has billed the state and how much the county will receive for the year, so that they can have a better estimate on what jail collections will be.

### **7. Fuel Analysis**

Accounting Manager Sarah Daniels reported average unleaded fuel costs have increased 7% to \$3.09 per gallon and that diesel has increased 9% to \$3.22 a gallon. Richard McComas stated during budget time, they were looking at an estimated fuel savings costs because of building the Westside Road Department and that \$800,000 had been budgeted for the Road Department for the year. He stated that there will be problems with fuel usage in the Road Department because of the good weather and rising fuel costs. He added that the rising fuel costs are going to hurt us.

### **8. Monthly Fund Summary**

Sarah Daniels reported on the Monthly Fund Summary report, stating that the General Fund is at 15.12% and the overall budget is at 12.74%.

Richard McComas stated that after the 2011 unemployment claims are paid, they will be able to close out the 2011 year.

### **9. Other Business**

JP Allen announced that the next Finance Committee meeting will be held April 3, 2012 at 5:30 p.m.

Upon motion and second the meeting adjourned at 7:17 p.m.